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ARGENTINA

The destruction by government-sponsored, right-wing terrorists of a plant housing one of Argentina's oldest newspapers is certain to compound President Peron's difficulties in dealing with the opposition parties.

The attack against a moderate newspaper in the interior city of Cordoba was carried out by the extreme right-wing terrorist Argentine Anti-Communist Alliance, apparently because of the paper's recent criticism of the government-appointed administrator of Cordoba Province, retired General Raul Lacabanne. Lacabanne has waged a harsh campaign against leftists in Cordoba since he assumed the post last September, and he probably has close connections with the illegal operations of the terrorist squads.

In addition, Lacabanne is a close collaborator of the powerful chief of the presidential secretariat, Jose Lopez Rega, who has also had a major hand in directing right-wing paramilitary operations. Lopez Rega, who has been conducting government business while Mrs. Peron is resting outside of Buenos Aires, is in a vital position to oversee security matters and may have given the orders for the Cordoba operation.

Opposition political parties have become increasingly vocal in opposing Lopez Rega's pre-eminent role, official complicity in right-wing terrorism, and Peronist strong-arm tactics in the provinces. They fear that the government might attempt to intimidate them in similar fashion. [redacted] 3.5(c)

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